

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 IOE-00 EAE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

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INR-05 /043 W

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P R 031107Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2253

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20957

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, TH, KS, KN

SUBJ: KOREAN QUESTION IN UN

REF: A. STATE 234163; B. STATE 225930; C. STATE 231036;

D. SECTO 14018

SUMMARY. I DISCUSSED KOREAN ITEM IN DETAIL WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER CHATCHAI OCTOBER 2. OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS RAISED
MATTER AT LOWER LEVELS. RTG WILL SUPPORT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION
AND IS LIKELY TO SUPPORT US ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION. CHATCHAI,
ACTING ON BASIS OF CABINET DECISION, WILL NOT HOWEVER AGREE
AT THIS TIME TO OPPOSE HOSTILE REOLUTION. MOST HE WOULD GIVE
WAS TO SAY HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR
ANAN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON CHATCHAI BUT NEED TO REIN-
FORCE THIS BY JAPANESE LOWERING THE BOOM ON HIM IN TOKYO,
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE STIFFENING SPINES OF THAILAND'S ASEAN
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COLLEAGUES AND WORKING OVER ANAN IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 2 OF REF A, I CALLED ON THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI OCTOBER 2 AND PRESENTED ARGUMENTS IN REFS C AND D ON UNGA KOREAN ITEM, STRESSING MOST SERIOUS CONCERN OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF PROBLEM AND ENSURE ALL BETS WERE COVERED IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE SIMILAR APPROACH TO SUCHAT CHUSATHASAMIT (DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT, MFA). ALL OF THE MATERIAL ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO MFA, BOTH AT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL AND DIRECTLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. KOREAN AMBASSADOR, WITH WHOM WE ARE CLOSELY CONSULTING, IS SEEING CHATCHAI TODAY (OCTOBER 3).

2. I EMPHASIZED TO CHATCHAI OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE KOREAN ITEM, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION AT THIS UNGA TO THE U.S. AND RECORDED OUR APPRECIATION THAT RTG HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. I NOTED OUR CONCERN THAT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN KOREAN PENINSULA, AS IT CALLED SIMPLY FOR ABOLITION ON UN COMMAND WITHOUT ANY MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE ARMISTICE; IT CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF KOREA, COUCHED IN SUCH TERMS AS TO EXCLUDE THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA; AND IT CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA, A MATTER WHICH IS PROPERLY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ONLY. MOREOVER, I NOTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION ON KOREA MIGHT GAIN PRIORITY OVER THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, IN WHICH CASE THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION MIGHT NEITHER BE DEBATED NOR VOTED ON. IN VIEW OF ALL OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I SAID THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTACHED THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO POSITIVE SUPPORT IN OPPOSING THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND ENSURING THAT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IS BROUGHT TO A VOTE FIRST. ABSTENTION WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE SINCE WE EXPECT BOTH VOTES TO BE CLOSE.

3. CHATCHAI RESPONDED OBLIQUELY AS IS USUAL WHEN HE DOES NOT WANT TO FACE A PROBLEM DIRECTLY. HE LAUNCHED INTO A SHORT TIRADE AGAINST THE JAPANESE, WHOM HE TERMED THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF ALL THE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN KOREA. THE JAPANESE, HE SAID, HAD CONTRIBUTED NOTHING TO
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INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN KOREA, AND HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD PRESS HIM ON THE KOREAN ISSUE WHEN HE VISITS TOKYO NEXT WEEK. (COMMENT. BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE. JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE TELLS US THEY HAVE RECOMMENDED TO TOKYO THAT KOREAN ISSUE BE RAISED WITH CHATCHAI. END COMMENT.) CHATCHAI CONTINUED THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WERE POOR, AS THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE GOING TO OPPOSE IT. I REPLIED THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WILL PASS IF OUR FRIENDS SUPPORT IT, BUT SO MIGHT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION IF WE DO NOT CLOSE

RANKS AND OPPOSE IT.

4. CHATCHAI NOTED THAT THAILAND HAD RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS, AND HE WAS OBVIOUSLY AT EASE AS TO HOW TO RESPOND TO MY PITCH. HE FINALLY TURNED TO KOSON SINTHAWANON (DIRECTOR GENERAL, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, MFA) AND ASKED HIM TO OUTLINE THE THAI POSITION. KOSON SAID THE RTG POSITION IS TO SUPPORT BUT NOT CO-SPONSOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA AND TO ABSTAIN ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. I REITERATED OUR POSITION REGARDING THE LATTER RESOLUTION. I THEN SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WERE SEEKING TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. (EARLIER IN THE DAY SUCHAT MADE A CONSIDERABLE POINT OF THIS POSSIBILITY TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR.) KOSON MADE CLEAR HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH OF AN ASEAN INITIATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT. I TOLD CHATCHAI THAT, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER TO OUR WHOLE SECURITY POSITION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC, I TRUSTED HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED ON ANY ASEAN INITIATIVE. HE AGREED.

5. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION BACK AND FORTH CHATCHAI SAID HE COULD NOT THEN REVERSE THE FIRM THAI DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION BUT THAT HE WOULD TALK FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR ANAN PANYARACHUN IN NEW YORK TO GET HIS VIEWS ON THE ISSUE.

6. COMMENT: I REPORT THIS CONVERSATION IN SOME DETAIL, IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER TO THE U.S. AS THINGS NOW STAND I BELIEVE THE RTG WILL SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, WILL OPPOSE VOTING ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION FIRST (ESPECIALLY IF THAILAND'S ASEAN COLLEAGUES TAKE THIS ROUTE) BUT WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION.
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DESPITE ANYTHING HE MAY HAVE SAID EARLIER, I DOUBT CHATCHAI EVER INTENDED TO OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION. CHATCHAI IS THE ARCHITECT OF THAILAND'S RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AND ITS EFFORTS TO ALIGN ITS POSITION AT THE UN AND ELSEWHERE MORE CLEARLY WITH THAT OF THE THIRD WORLD. ALSO, ON THIS ISSUE WE KNOW THAT CHATCHAI IS ACTING IN LINE WITH A DECISION OF THE CABINET, TAKEN AT A MEETING AT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PRESIDED, TO ABSTAIN ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

7. I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON CHATCHAI HERE BUT BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT (A) THE JAPANESE HIT HIM HARD IN TOKYO, (B) WE WORK ON THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO BRING THEM ALONG WITH OUR POSITION TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT AND (C) WE WORK ON ANAN IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON (CHATCHAI MENTIONED AT ONE POINT IN OUR TALK THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NOT RAISED THE KOREA ITEM WITH HIM IN NEW YORK). THE REPORTS WHICH ANAN SENDS BACK WILL BE IMPORTANT IN STRENGTHENING OUR EFFORTS TO TURN CHATCHAI AROUND ON THIS ISSUE.

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